Mount Wachusett Community College
Summer 2012
Volume 3 • Number 3

CareerFocus™

Mount Wachusett Community College

KEEP YOUR GRADUATION GOALS ON TRACK

Transfer Advantages
Why starting at MWCC is a great idea

Enrollment & Financial Aid
The simple steps & FAQs

Support Service for Adult Learners
Counseling options for you

Service Learning
Build your résumé through civic engagement

http://mwcc.edu/cf

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Gardner, MA 01440

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Class schedules are available at **http://mwcc.edu/cf**

MAY 14
Two Week May Intersession

May 29 Summer 1

JULY 9 Summer 2

SEPT. 5
Fall Semester Begins

Enrolling is easy:

New/Former Students:
Students new to MWCC, or those who have not taken courses at MWCC in the past 12 months can:

- **Apply online at http://mwcc.edu/cf**, or
- Contact the admissions office at 877-324-6815, or in person

Continuing Students

- Go to http://mwcc.edu, click on **"iConnect,"** or
- Contact the Advising Center at 978-630-9109, or stop by room 116 at the Gardner Campus

Course Schedules

- Courses fill fast and new sections open continuously. Find the most up-to-date listings online: **http://mwcc.edu**

MWCC Info Night

Yes YOU can!

YOU can go to college.

YOU can earn a certificate or a degree.

YOU can become whatever.

YOU want to be.

Attend MWCC's information night to learn how!
Student support services, groups and clubs, financial aid, and more!

Seating is limited. Reserve your spot today!
978-630-9110 or admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

June 12
5-7pm

444 Green St., Gardner
Refreshments will be served

Visit Mount Wachusett Community College on the web at http://mwcc.edu/cf

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CareerFocus is published three times a year by Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 in partnership with Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

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Mount Wachusett Community College

CareerFocus™

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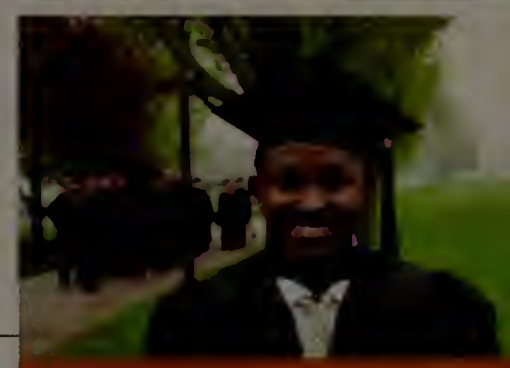

On the Cover:
Samuel Githinji, RN
MWCC graduate 2011

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Feature

Transfer Advantages for Community College Graduates

Starting at a community college and then transferring to a four-year public or private college or university is a common strategy for students interested in earning a bachelor's degree. From teens to adult learners and career changers, more students are considering the transfer route for its many advantages:

- Low tuition
- Smaller class sizes
- Financial aid and scholarships
- Online choices
- Transfer agreements with public and private colleges and universities
- Opportunity to explore academic and career options

Approximately 30 percent of Mount Wachusett Community College students are enrolled in transfer programs. With transfer agreements among Massachusetts public colleges and universities, as well as many private and out-of-state colleges, students can start a bachelor's degree at MWCC knowing their courses will transfer.

"I chose the Mount because it was close by, the tuition was low, and because I didn't know which direction to go academically. It was a great place to start," says Michelle Cote.

With the support she received through MWCC's Visions program, a TRIO student support services program, the mother of three gained confidence in her abilities. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Cote earned the Visions program's President's Award for academic distinction. After graduating in 2010 with a degree in Liberal Studies, she transferred to prestigious Mount Holyoke College, the oldest women's college in the country, as a Frances Perkins Scholar. The generous scholarship program is specifically designed for community college graduates. Cote is on target to graduate with a bachelor's degree in English in December 2012.

"I love Mount Holyoke but I still miss the Mount," says Cote. The support and close-knit community she found at MWCC made all the difference as she embarked on her college career. "Many opportunities

Michelle Cote

came my way. More than I ever imagined."

Saving Money

Attending a community college can provide substantial savings. For starters, tuition and fees are less than four-year institutions. By starting and staying at a community college through completion of an associate degree, students can take substantial sums off the overall cost of a bachelor's degree.

Another important, yet often overlooked, benefit is scholarship opportunities. When students start at a community college, they start building their college transcript, and their academic achievements there can lead to scholarship opportunities, not only at the community college, but at the four-year institution as well.

That was the experience of Austin Seppala of Rindge, New Hampshire, who enrolled at Mount Wachusett Community College after spending a semester at a four-year college in Idaho. "I came home to re-evaluate my options, and decided to attend the Mount because it was close to home and the price of tuition was within my budget," he says. As a first-generation college student in his family, he also became involved with the college's Visions program and, through his academic success, was inducted into the Alpha Beta Gamma business honor society and the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

After graduating from MWCC in 2010, Seppala was offered admission into three institutions. He decided to transfer to Northeastern University in Boston, where he received a generous scholarship package, and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a management concentration.

"I felt prepared for Northeastern because I had already established my study skills at the Mount, so it was just a matter of transferring them to new classes and new professors."

Dual Enrollment

One of the academic options growing in popularity is dual enrollment. At MWCC, there are a variety of options that enable high school students to earn college credits – and even their entire associate degree – while simultaneously earning their high school diploma.

The Pathways Early College Innovation School, the Gateway to College program, grant-funded dual enrollment programs that allow eligible students to take college courses for a mere $30, and traditional dual enrollment options are among the choices available to teens.

Karla Correa of Leominster will graduate in May from MWCC with a degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences. A month later, she'll earn her high

Austin Seppala transferred from MWCC to Northeastern University, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

school diploma as well. How did she do it? Through dual enrollment.

Eighteen-year-old Correa discovered an interest in science and medicine while in middle school. By the time she was in high school, she felt ready to step up the pace.

"I felt that I could challenge myself more by taking college courses. Dual enrollment is a good opportunity to get started sooner."

This fall, she plans to transfer to a public or private college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology, and then continue her goal of enrolling in medical school.

Start near ... Go far!

Bachelor programs require that students fulfill a set of general education courses, and community colleges are good places to earn these credits. MWCC students can take these courses and transfer their credits to various public and private colleges and universities. When meeting with a college admissions representative, one of the most important questions to ask is, "Will my credits transfer to another institution?" and then ask for a list of those schools that accept the credits.

MWCC has transfer agreements with many public and private colleges and universities to ensure seamless transfer into the four-year institutions. One of the newest programs at MWCC is "3 + 1," which provides associate degree graduates with a convenient, cost-effective path to a bachelor's degree.

A 3 + 1 program is a transfer agreement that allows students to complete the first three years of college at MWCC, at MWCC prices, before transferring to a bachelor's program at a participating private college or university. The final year can be completed online, at MWCC, or on-campus at the four-year school, depending on the option selected.

At MWCC, students can participate in 3 + 1 programs with several colleges and universities, including Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Mount Ida College, Nichols College and Regis College in Massachusetts, as well as Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Charter Oak State College in Connecticut, and Bellevue University in Nebraska.

Students who plan to transfer to a Massachusetts state college or university may be eligible to transfer under the MassTransfer agreement. Students who complete an associate degree, earn a grade point average (GPA) of no less than 2.0, and take 34 credits of general education coursework, are eligible for the program. Further, those who earn a GPA of 3.0 or higher can save one-third off their tuition.

Transferring from a community college is smart way to start college, save money and achieve academic goals. And, by utilizing the expertise of dedicated professors, professionals and resources, the process provides a smooth transition to a four-year institution, especially for graduates with an associate degree.

Alumni Spotlight

Transfer Student Nick Colello

Nick Colello of Leominster took a break from academics following high school. When he decided to enroll at Mount Wachusett Community College, he was determined to not only be successful, but accelerate the pace of his college degree, as well.

"What I loved about the Mount was first of all being able to take summer classes and hybrid classes, which allowed me to obtain a two-year degree in a year-and-a-half. I also took classes in Leominster, which was very convenient for me," says Colello, who graduated from MWCC in December 2010.

"Because I had been out of school for about eight years, I would frequently go for tutoring at MWCC, mostly for math. The great thing about the Academic Support Center is someone is always there and they're very supportive. There is so much support at the Mount. Once you get going, you really feel you have the support to make it all the way through."

After earning his degree in Liberal Studies, Colello transferred to Fitchburg State University, where he is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a minor in psychology and a concentration in sociology and political science.

"I received a solid foundation. The Liberal Studies program really prepared me for all of the Fitchburg State courses. With the science, the math and the English requirements in that program, I am now able to really catch on and grasp any material that I encounter, whether it's Intro to Cognitive Neuroscience or Statistics."

By maintaining the fast track he began while at MWCC, Colello is on target to graduate in December, 2012. He plans to gain career experience while continuing on for a master's degree in the social science field.

– Janice O'Connor

Where are MWCC Students Going?

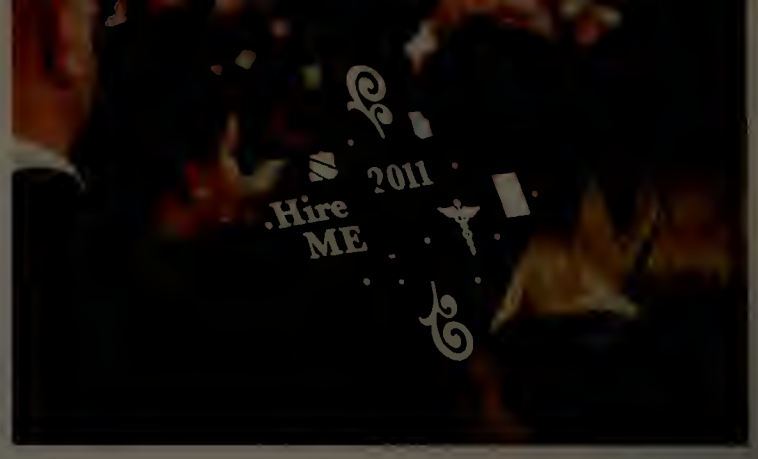
MWCC alumni go on to pursue their bachelor's degrees at colleges and universities close by and as far away as Alaska. Here are some of the most popular transfer schools:

Anna Maria College
Assumption College
Becker College
Brandeis University
Clark University
Fitchburg State University
Nichols College
Saint Joseph's College of Maine
University of Massachusetts. (Amherst, Boston and Lowell campuses)
Worcester State College

Feature

Don't Give Up!

How to keep your graduation goal on track



Just as marathon runners aim for the finish line, college students plan to graduate. Sadly, just as the highest percentage of runners surrender during the middle of a race, the United States Census Board estimates that one in three college students falter midway toward graduation. The good news is that by identifying and reinforcing your reasons for getting an education, and identifying potential pitfalls and putting plans in place to circumvent them, self-motivation can keep you from being one of them.

What's your why?

Rene Godefroy, motivational speaker and author of *Kiss Your Excuses Goodbye: No Condition is Permanent*, says, "Life is like a bicycle. Unless you keep pedaling, you'll lose your balance, fall and get nowhere. It's important not to lose your momentum." He says that in order to keep pedaling toward any long-term goal, individuals must have an emotional, intrinsic driving force: a personal "why" that helps them persist in short-term goals.

Jon Gordon, author of *The Energy Bus and The Seed: Finding Purpose and Happiness in Life and Work*, says, "We don't get burned out because of what we do, but because we forget why we do it."

He and Godefroy assert that identifying the reasons you want to successfully graduate, writing your vision down and referencing it often, is imperative. Godefroy emphasizes that a bland statement such as, "I'm going to college to get an education and a good job." means little. He believes it's important to incorporate into your vision the personal emotional impact of having your degree–freedom from financial insecurity, pride in your accomplishment, a career you enjoy rather than endure unsatisfying work.

Motivation busters - and boosters

Distractions, the biggest motivation busters, tempt the most dedicated student after the early enthusiasm of campus life begins to wane. Small-picture pleasures, such as sleeping in, watching television or going out with friends when you should be in class or studying, can ruin your big picture future. Identifying external and internal distractions and having a strategy for keeping them at bay is instrumental.

2011 MWCC graduates Justine Thibault and Sonja Olson.

2010 MWCC graduates Sashka Powell and Faheem Muhammad.

Surprisingly, says Gordon, close family members and friends can sometimes be among a student's greatest distractions. "They may unconsciously be intimidated by your desire to change your lot in life, thereby encouraging you to take a right-now job or a semester off, stay up and party or otherwise disparage your education." He recommends promptly throwing these naysayers and energy vampires under the wheels of your bus, and actively inviting and keeping your mentors and cheerleaders aboard.

He also suggests identifying three positive actions that you can take each day that will help you toward your goal: reviewing class notes, studying regularly, visiting a tutor or getting a good night's sleep. Godefroy agrees with Gordon about the importance of selectively choosing energy-boosting people and activities. "In the end, we'll be most proud of those that ultimately gave our lives meaning and purpose."

Gordon warns would-be graduates about the dangers of too much busyness and stress. Too much of these increase cortisol, the fight-or-flight stress hormone that can impair cognitive performance, cause confusion and forgetfulness and make it difficult to concentrate. He says that when overwhelmed, it's important to take deep breaths and a "thank-you walk."

"You can't be stressed and grateful at the same time," he explains. "Exercise is a great stress reliever. As you walk, remember with each step how lucky you are to get to go to college; many others can't. Reflect on the many good things in your life. You'll relax and your mind will be fertile for success."

Stick to your optimistic story

Proudly acknowledging each small goal you meet–the nights you study when you'd rather be out with friends, successfully completing a paper, a class or semester–can help you "keep on keeping on" says Gordon.

He believes that each of us chooses a story to follow, one in which we are a hero or victim. "Heroes are people who choose not to be victims but victors. They reinforce to themselves a dream of a future based on positive faith rather than negative fear," he says.

"Sustaining yourself with hope, faith and action will increase your motivation and nourish your commitment to your education. The skills you learn and put in place to keep you motivated as you pursue your education will remain your allies as you embark on your new career and life."

"Life is like a bicycle. Unless you keep pedaling, you'll lose your balance, fall and get nowhere. It's important not to lose your momentum."

Maintaining Momentum

Can you stay focused on the big picture?

The following quiz will help you determine if you know how to harness your personal power, reject self-sabotaging behaviors and keep yourself motivated toward graduation.

1. I'm going to college because:

A. I need a degree to get a good job.

B. I'll have more freedom and pride in my career, financial and personal choices after I complete my education.

2. Your uncle can get you a job with a decent hourly wage and benefits. You should:

A. Take it. You're tired of being a starving student, and will eventually return to your studies.

B. Stay in school. You made a commitment to graduate and you're sticking to it.

3. Friends invite you to watch movies but you had plans to study for an exam. You decide to:

A. Stay in and study. Your graduation commitment is too important. You'll make plans to do something special with your friends when your schedule allows for it.

B. Go for it! College is about good times. What's one night off? You'll get up early and hit the books.

4. You frequently find yourself depleted after meeting with your best friend who doesn't seem to be going anywhere. You decide to:

A. Keep the friendship. You owe it to your long-time friend who has been there for you for years.

B. Be mindful of time with your friend and limit it when necessary to ensure your priorities are met first. It may be painful, but you need all the energy you can muster to keep your graduation goal on track.

Alumni Spotlight

Samuel Githinji, RN

Born in Kenya, Samuel Githinji moved with his family to Massachusetts as an adult. He trained to become a Certified Nurse Aid, and while working in that capacity in his new hometown of Worcester, Githinji discovered, and then pursued, his dream to advance in the medical field by becoming a nurse.

"Initially, I did not intend to become a nurse, but when I spoke with friends who were nurses, I was encouraged and had an interest in it."

After looking into various options, he chose the nursing program at Mount Wachusett Community College. Though a selective program, by excelling in his prerequisite math and science courses at MWCC's Gardner, Leominster and Devens campuses, Githinji was accepted into the two-year Associated Degree Nursing program, which prepared him for licensure to become a Registered Nurse.

"It was a rigorous program, but a great program. I enjoyed every bit of it and have recommended it to many friends," says Githinji, who was named to the college's Dean's List and became a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Attending the traditional nurse pinning ceremony, cheered on by family and friends, was a moment he'll never forget. "I'm so thankful to the professors that we had, like Judy Fredette, who was very, very supportive to us. All the professors helped us to succeed. We felt at home."

His advice to others who wish to stay on track to graduate from college: "They need to be focused; they need to hold their mind on the target so they can accomplish what they want to achieve. It's gratifying to reach the goal."

A May 2011 graduate of MWCC, Githinji now works as a hospice care nurse in Worcester and plans to pursue his bachelor's degree in nursing in the future.

"I came to the United States for greater opportunity, and now I'm seeing the fruits of my being here. There are so many things I'm grateful for, including this. I'm grateful to have been part of the Mount Wachusett community."

– Janice O'Connor

Answer Key

Give yourself one point for each correct answer.

1-B A degree certainly can bring career opportunities, but to keep yourself doing the things you need to do to graduate, you must identify your personal emotional "whys."

Rene Godefroy says that external motivations, such as going to college to be with your friends or because your parents or spouse insist upon it, won't keep you attending classes you may not like, enduring instructors you find boring and making other necessary sacrifices.

"Each person must take responsibility to find within themselves their emotional triggers, the ones that passionately drive them to persevere," says Godefroy. Identifying these, writing them down and frequently referencing them will keep them alive, and help compel you to keep working toward graduation.

2-B The Public Agenda Report for The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, With Their Whole Lives Ahead of Them, says that while 65 percent of students who drop out of college plan to return, only about 38 percent do so.

The reasons most students fail to complete their college credential is because they are overwhelmed, overextended, underfunded and under-prepared. Fifty-four percent say they left because they needed to work to support themselves or their families, and could not balance work and classes.

Godefroy says that recognizing financial, mental and emotional challenges in advance and putting plans in place to meet them–checking into securing financial aid or a loan, setting and adhering to proper sleep, work and study schedules, and determining the ways you and your family and friends will deal with the challenge of your college commitment–is the smart way to begin and stay in school.

3-A Most of us have heard the phrase "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Likewise, "The road to failure is paved with distractions."

Jon Gordon says, "Distractions cause us to lose our focus. When we allow the trivial to get in the way of the meaningful, we miss out on achieving our truly satisfying goals."

Certainly make time in your schedule for rest and relaxation, but don't lose focus on your goal and the importance of taking each step toward it. When tempted to let your studies slide, remember how great you'll feel from getting a good grade and how you can only get that feeling from hard work and sacrifice–and then get to work!

4-B Gordon and Godefroy agree that the people we surround ourselves with are a big part of who we become. If you wish to be a motivated student you must surround yourself with other motivated students who encourage you to work hard and study, and limit your time with those who lack direction.

Scoring

4-3 points: You're so motivated that your diploma is nearly in your hands.

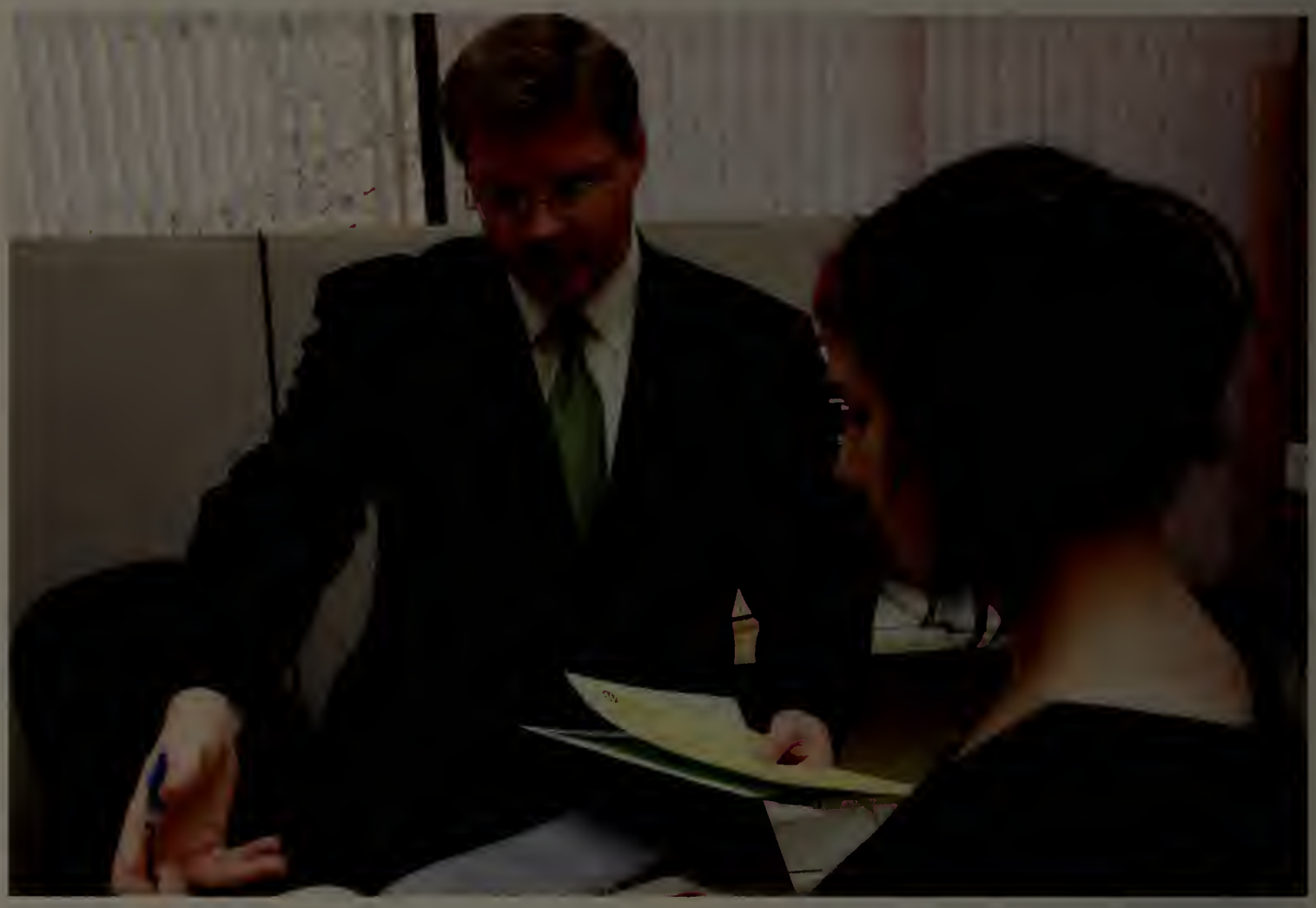
2-1 points: You are on the right track, but a little more motivation could help.

0 points: If you want to stay in motion, you've got to begin moving. Now.

Feature

Demystifying Enrollment & Financial Aid

Want to attend Mount Wachusett Community College, but not sure where to start? Just follow this step-by-step list that explains what you'll need to do to get started, and how to apply for financial aid, as well.



Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Financial Aid Ryan Forsythe with student Rachel Stillman.

Enrollment

Admission Application

Complete an Admission Application at http://mwcc.edu/apply. Questions about applying can be made to the Office of Admissions at 978-630-9110 or admissions@mwcc.mass.edu.

Submit Supporting Documents

Supply to Mount Wachusett Community College, Office of Admissions, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 admission application documentation, including:

- Application Fee of $10
- High School transcript or GED Score Report
- College transcripts (if you have any)

You're In!

When you are admitted to the college, you will receive the acceptance letter in the mail!!

Apply for Financial Aid

This sounds scary, but it's not! See the simple financial aid FAQs on the next page.

New Student Welcome and College Placement Test

Attend a New Student Welcome Session. At this event, you will receive important information about enrolling and completing your college placement test. Reservations for New Student Welcome Sessions can be made by calling the Testing Center at 978-630-9244.

Ryan Forsythe helping student Phylicia Duguay.

Complete an Admission Application at http://www.mwcc.edu/apply.

Questions about applying can be made to the Office of Admissions at 978-630-9110 or admissions@mwcc.mass.edu.

Academic Advising

Meet with your Academic Advisor. To find out when you can meet with your advisor, contact the Advising Center at 978-630-9109.

Health Records

Submit your immunization and medical history information to Mount Wachusett Community College, Health Services, 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440. You'll hear more about this after you are admitted!

Attend Orientation

Orientation takes place shortly before you start your first term. Here you will learn useful information that will assist you in your first term on campus.

Ask Questions!

Questions about enrolling at The Mount can be made through the MWCC Office of Admissions at 978-630-9110 or admissions@mwcc.mass.edu.

Financial Aid FAQs

Helping you get the money you need for the education you deserve

At Mount Wachusett Community College we believe that going to college should be a destination that everyone can reach. We also know that not everyone has the money to get there. Here are some answers to some of the most frequently asked financial aid questions.

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money provided by federal, state and college sources to help students pay their expenses while attending college. Many students find it increasingly difficult to finance a college education without some assistance. In general, all U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens who are enrolled in an approved degree or certificate program are eligible to receive some type of financial assistance.

If I receive financial aid now, do I need to pay the money back later?

There are many grant and scholarship programs available that offer "free money" that does not have to be repaid. Other financial aid programs are in the form of low interest loans that do require repayment, but only after the student has stopped attending school. If you apply early, chances are a significant amount of your financial need can be met with aid that doesn't have to be repaid.

The entire financial aid process seems overwhelming and confusing. How can I get financial assistance if I'm not even sure how to apply?

Applying for financial aid can be confusing. At MWCC, many workshops are offered to assist students with the online application process. There is also one-on-one assistance available through the North Central Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) located at our Leominster Campus.

I'm not sure I qualify for financial aid. Should I complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

Yes, the best way to determine what funds you qualify for is by completing an application. It doesn't cost anything to apply. Financial aid removes financial barriers for families who cannot afford the cost of an education, and also provides needed funds for families who can afford only a portion of college costs. Your financial eligibility will be determined by a number of factors including family income, the size of your family and number of family members attending college.

You can complete a FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Using a PIN to Apply and to Sign Your Application.

Obtain a PIN, an electronic access code number that serves as an identifier at www.pin.ed.gov.

What is a PIN and what is it used for?

It is an electronic access code number that serves as your identifier and electronic signature. Safeguard your PIN as you will use the same PIN every year during college.

Your PIN helps you to:

- Apply online for federal student aid, using FAFSA on the web.
- "Sign" your application electronically and complete the student aid process totally online—no paper is involved. If you're a dependent student and your parents have a PIN, they can sign the application electronically, as well. Signing the application at the time you apply means you'll get your results faster.
- Make corrections to your FAFSA.
- Access your Student Aid Report and make corrections to it.
- Access all your federal student aid records online, including any federal loan information.

If you have any questions about the PIN process, you should either visit the PIN website at www.pin.ed.gov or call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243). This is also the number to call to check on the status of your financial aid application. Please allow two to four weeks for processing.

When To Apply

Now is the time to apply. File as soon as you can, even if you are unsure about your college plans. Meeting financial aid deadlines is important, however, even if you have missed a deadline, you should still apply as soon as you decide to attend college.

- If you want to be considered for the Mass Grant Program, you must file your FAFSA by May 1.

Missing Information Letter

Some financial aid applications are selected for the verification process by the federal processor. For students that are required to complete this process, a missing information letter will be sent to once the MWCC Financial Aid Office receives your results. It will indicate the forms you will need to submit to complete your file. A financial aid award determination cannot be made until all required documents are submitted.

Award Letter

Award information is made available to students 24/7 using the online self service system called WebConnect. An email is sent to the MWCC student email account once the file has been reviewed and packaged.

FAFSA Filing Assistance

MWCC's Financial Aid Office is offering FAFSA filing workshops in conjunction with the Perkins Advisor on the following dates and times:

Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m.
April 17 and 24
May 1 and 8
Advising Center, Room 115, Gardner Campus

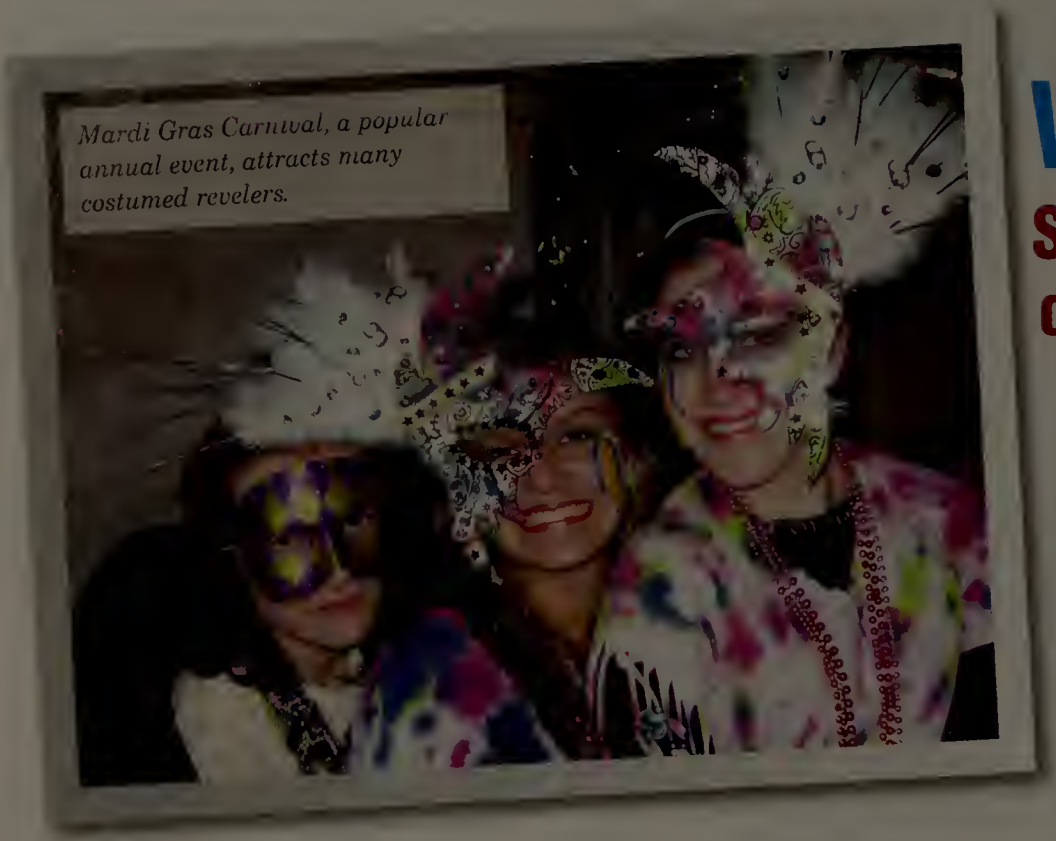
These workshops are open to students and their parents who need assistance with filing the 2012-2013 FAFSA forms.

Please call 978-630-9169 or email financialaid@mwcc.mass.edu to register. All workshops will offer hands-on completion of FAFSA on the Web. therefore your pre-registration will ensure that there will be a computer available for you.

- Students and parents are encouraged to bring the following:
- 2011 W2s (student and parent, if applicable)
- 2011 Federal Tax forms (student and parent, if applicable)
- Value of assets
- Federal FAFSA PIN (if available, if not a PIN can be obtained during the Workshop)

The Mass Grant deadline for filing the FAFSA is May 1, 2012.

Feature



Mardi Gras Carnival, a popular annual event, attracts many costumed revelers.

Work Hard, Play Hard

Student life enhances your college experience

By Hannah Adams

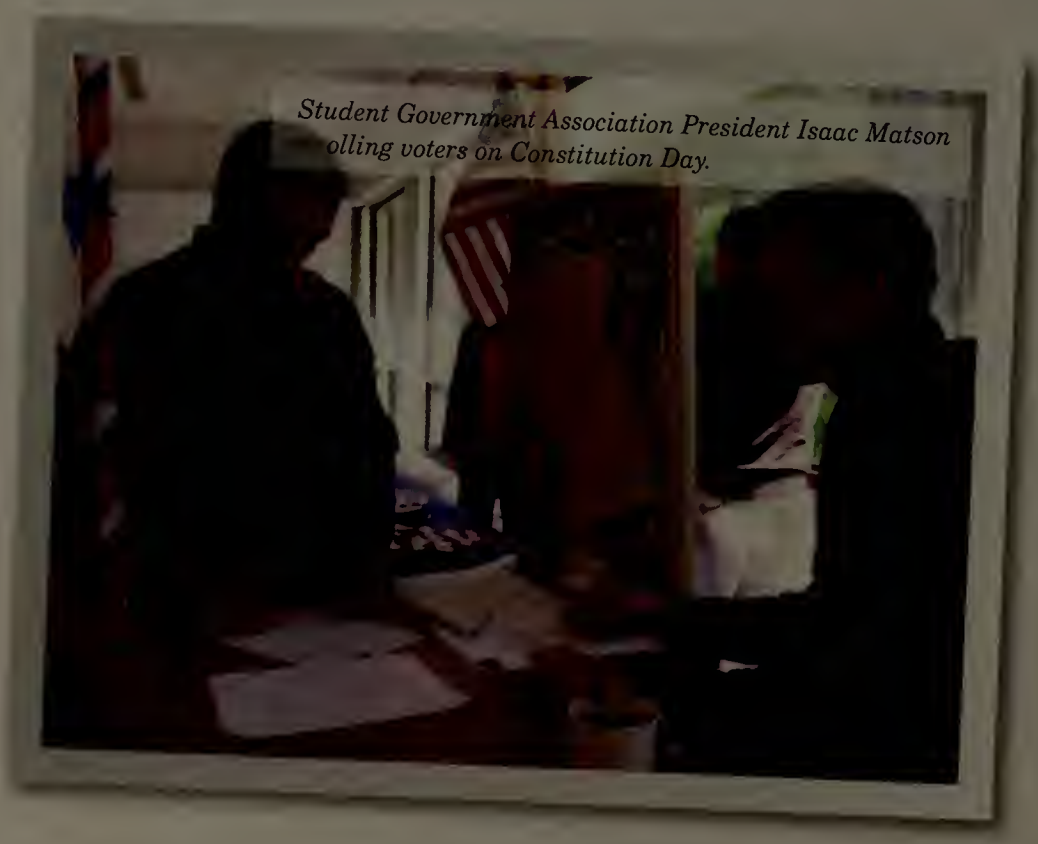
Any student who might be thinking "there's nothing to do at a community college," couldn't be more mistaken. Whether they realize it or not, the environment and community of the campus, like clubs, and events, play a huge role in a student's college experience and are important accessories to every academic program. There is so much more than classes that draw students to the institutions they are attending today. Mount Wachusett Community College offers many opportunities to find something you're good at, can enjoy, and there's so much to gain from the experience.

MWCC's Assistant Dean of Students Greg Clement has been expanding the student life program at MWCC for the past 10 years and is passionate in his work to aid students' experiences. He and his department offer an emerging student leaders summer camp, an advanced leadership development retreat, and a semester long "Leadership for Life" program, in addition to nearly 30 clubs and organizations and a variety of events that are always open to all ages.

"Academics and co-curricular activities are a winning combination – you can't go wrong," Clement says. "And study after study shows that students are becoming more aware of the importance of a strong co-curricular experience."

The National Center for Education Statistics claims that extracurricular activities have become as important as schoolwork in producing well-rounded, confident, successful students. The statistics also show that those who are involved and participate in some aspect tend to see themselves as part of the community, do better academically, and continue their education more than those who do not engage in campus activities. It is typical that a student will not only get involved to make friends and build interpersonal skills during school, but also to improve their lives after graduation.

Sophomore honors student and Art Club President Sarah Adams, began her involvement with a little encouragement from an art professor. "I signed up and from there, more opportunities showed up and I instantly wanted to join as much as I could," Adams says.



Student Government Association President Isaac Matson olling voters on Constitution Day.

There is no reason for new students not to jump in and get occupied with something they enjoy. In fact, it makes the transition to a change of life style much smoother. Freshman Kyle Kasabian recently transferred to MWCC for a degree in Theatre Arts and has already hit the ground running.

"I auditioned for *Fiddler on the Roof* because I like the show and being on stage. I thought it would help to try and get my foot in the door here," Kasabian says. He landed a lead role in the Theatre at the Mount production before the semester even started and mentioned that it's nice to have something that connects him with the college other than his classes.

Joining clubs and organizations can be considered the best way to get involved and is often the easiest way to meet people and form strong connections with others who share your interests. College is all about the people you meet, experiences you have, and memories you make along the way. "I want students to have a full college experience," Clement adds. "This really is the time of your life and there are many doors to open. Getting involved during college can help you get the job of your dreams or be successful in continuing your education elsewhere."

Adams has helped out with Orientation Day 2012 and is looking into joining the Campus Activities Team for Students (CATS) and Phi Theta Kappa honor society, in addition to keeping up her good academic standing for the remainder of her college career. "Now I know where I want to go in life, what I want to do, and how I can get there. I take opportunities wherever I see fit and from this I have gained new friends, confidence, jobs, and work experience that will take me far."

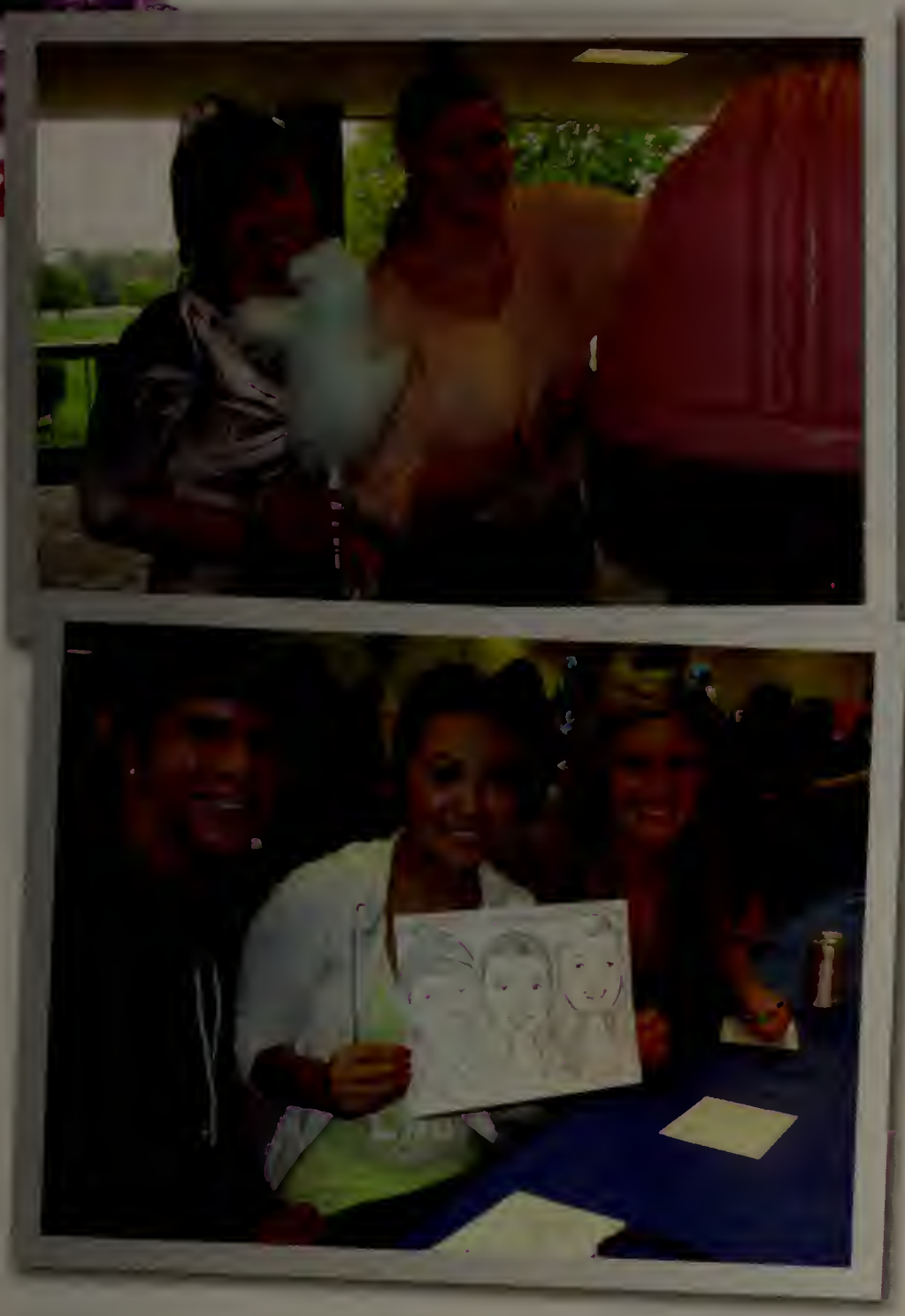
There's never 'Nothing to do' at MWCC. Get involved!

There are numerous reasons why someone would and should join a club or get involved in student activities. Now it's up to you to decide which path you're going to take. "You are the captain of your own ship, and you need to guide it in the right direction for you," Clement says.

If joining an organized club isn't something that fits in with your schedule or your interests, there are plenty of other things to do at MWCC. Did you know there was a nature trail around the pond? How many students are aware of the dinosaur tracks to the left of the college entrance? Spend some downtime exploring the Gardner campus. There is always something to check out at the East Wing Gallery. The Lion's Den Student Center acts as the 'living room' to the campus and is often bursting at the seams. Students hang out there and go on the computers, play ping pong or foosball, and just interact with each other in a relaxing setting.

The Fitness and Wellness Center houses state-of-the-art, user-friendly facilities. Stop by and shoot some hoops or take a few laps in the pool. MWCC students get a great membership deal on all the equipment and exercise classes available.

Even if you don't join a club, there is enough of a selection of things happening around campus that no



MWCC's annual Welcome Back Fall Festival provides students with the opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet new ones.

one should feel left out. "Each event has a different purpose that makes up all of student life," Clement says. And there are always a number of students that go to events because they get to meet people they wouldn't normally interact with during classes.

There is a high level of connection and meaning that comes to those who spend time getting involved and discovering the community around them. "I used to be really shy," Adams says. "Now I feel like I can and will make a difference for myself and for others and I want to strive for the best."

There are numerous reasons why someone would and should join a club or get involved in student activities. Now it's up to you to decide which path you're going to take.

There is something for everyone on campus. The clubs and organizations offered at MWCC are as diverse as the students who run them.

Curriculum Clubs:

Biology & Physiology and Natural Healing Club
Art Club
Computer Graphic Design Club
Dental Hygienist Club
Early Childhood Education Club
English as Second Language Club
The Green Society
Human Service Club
Legal Studies Group
Marketing Club
Math and Our Community Club
Medical Assisting and Medical Office Club
Student Nurses Association

Interest and Social Clubs:

Active Minds Club
ALANA Club
Campus 4 Christ Club
Dance Crew
International Club
Non-Traditional Student Association
Otaku United
PRIDE (People Rising In Defense of Everyone)
Theatre Club
Veterans Group

Honor Societies:

Alpha Beta Gamma
Phi Theta Kappa

Service Organizations:

Campus Activities Team for Students (CATS)
iPublications (Student Web Literary Magazine)
Mount Observer (Student Newspaper)
Student Government Association

Summer Leadership Camp

A day camp/institute for new students that is held in August.

- An opportunity for new students to get a jump start on their first semester
- Learn about all the amazing leadership opportunities at MWCC
- Meet other new students
- Get to know important college resources and staff
- Develop new leadership skills
- Learn how to manage time and get the most out of your college experience
- Get important tips on academic success
- Participate in civic engagement

Feature

Adult Learners Get the Support They Need

Whether you're going to college or seeking technical training, the NCEOC can help you get there

The mission of the North Central Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC) at Mount Wachusett Community College is to help North Central Massachusetts adults go to college or get vocational training after high school. The center actively assists participants in the planning and implementation of a student learning plan, which may include high school equivalency preparation, English as a Second Language courses, technical or professional training, and college courses. The NCEOC then provides client-centered services tailored toward meeting the goal of the student's learning plan, including assistance with applying to the public or private college, university or vocational school of their choice, applying for financial aid, and academic and career counseling.

Annually, the NCEOC program serves 1,000 adults living in the 29 cities and towns of North Central Massachusetts at MWCC's Leominster and Gardner campuses. Two-thirds of the participants must be income eligible and potential first-generation college students. The NCEOC is staffed by education specialists who understand adult learners' needs. They are knowledgeable in admissions and financial aid application procedures, student loan default prevention and rehabilitation, and career assessment. Both individual counseling and group activities provide participants with academic, career, and financial preparation. Services are available to individuals who have discontinued high school, left college programs, or who have not yet pursued higher education.

Assistant Director, Holly Kreidler-Phaneuf helping student Lamar Ford.

Providing support to students at the North Central Educational Opportunity Center are Director Valerie LaPorte; Clerk Yong Saddler; Assistant Director Holly Kreidler-Phaneuf and Community Outreach Counselor Kathy Lewis.

NCEOC was recently awarded continuation funding to provide adults in the region with targeted educational access services through a five-year U.S. Department of Education TRIO grant. The NCEOC, housed within MWCC's Division of Lifelong Learning and Workforce Development, was created in 2002 through U.S. DOE funding, with additional financial and in-kind support from the college. Designed to provide support for first generation college students and those with income challenges, Educational Opportunity Center programs are one of the nationwide TRIO programs created through federal legislation nearly 40 years ago. TRIO participants represent a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

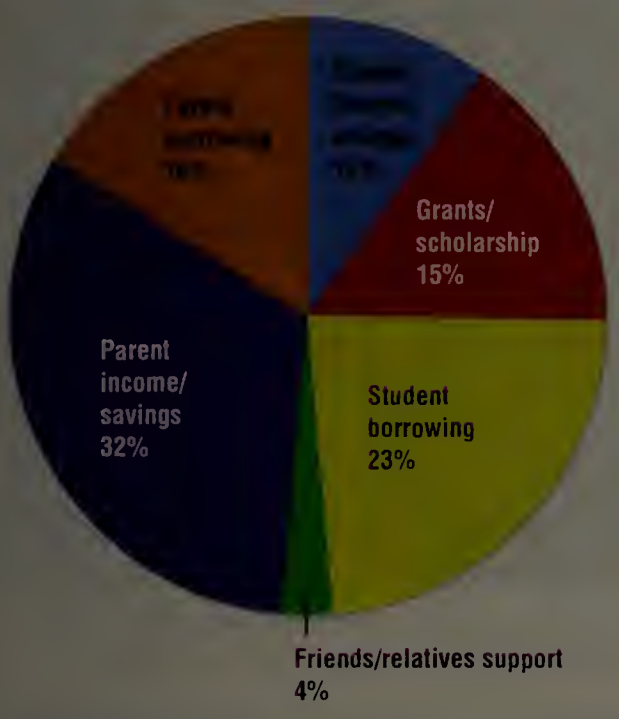
"As a federally funded program, we are able to help people go to school no matter where they want to enroll in school, whether it is Mount Wachusett, one of the state universities or a career training program," says Valerie LaPorte, director of the North Central Educational Opportunity Center. "We've seen a rise in our numbers over the last couple of years and a lot of that has been generated by the unemployment in the region; people whose jobs have been shipped overseas, or their workplaces have closed and they need to retrain. We're here to provide career counseling and help them determine which direction they would like to go in based on their interests and what they'll need to do to retrain to enter their new field of choice."

New initiatives include additional support services to veterans and military-connected family members and a financial literacy component, which will incorporate workshops conducted by Leominster Credit Union at the Leominster campus and workshops conducted by GFA Federal Credit Union at the Gardner campus.

"A college degree or postsecondary certificate has never been more necessary for success in the global economy, and TRIO programs will help increase the number of people who pursue postsecondary education, by helping them learn about the admissions process and how to find financial aid," U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan stated when announcing the national grants in October 2011. TRIO and other programs are making an essential contribution to meeting President Obama's goal of having the highest percentage of college graduates by the end of the decade.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with the North Central Educational Opportunity Center, call 978-630-9823 or email: vlaporte@mwcc.mass.edu.

Facts AND Finds



How the Average Family Pays for College

Most students and parents believe that college is an investment in a better future. Sallie Mae, the nation's leading provider of student loans, partnered with Gallup Polls to find out how students and their parents are paying for a college education and what kinds of decisions they're making when it comes time to choose a school. The average family spends about $17,200 annually on a college education and pays for it through a combination of income, grants and scholarships and loans.

Middle-income families making $50,000 to $100,000 a year paid an average of $4,340 from savings and income and $6,380 in parent and student loans for a college education.

Students who attended two-year public colleges had much lower costs, with about $2,300 a year in contributions coming from parents' income and savings and about $1,700 a year from loans.

Online Learning

- **24% of all MWCC students take courses online**
- **100+ MWCC online courses available**
- **19 MWCC certificate and associate degree programs can be completed 90% online**

Education has evolved with the invention of the Internet. Today's students may not have to travel further than their own living room, office or kitchen table to take a class. Mount Wachusett Community College's online courses continue to gain in popularity. MWCC began offering its first two online courses in fall 1998, and now offers more than 100 in a wide range of subjects.

One-quarter of all MWCC students take online courses, and nearly nine percent of all MWCC students are completing their degree entirely online. In addition, 19 of MWCC's degree and certificate programs can be completed 90-percent online.

According to Dr. Vincent Ialenti, Dean of Academic and Institutional Technology at MWCC, there is no "typical" online student. Often, online courses are more convenient for students who have trouble setting a regular weekly academic schedule, whether due to employment, transportation or child care issues, he says.

Online courses are recommended for students with high self discipline. With no actual class meetings, it can be tempting to fall behind.

For maximum success in an online course, it is important for students to decide if online learning is right for them. Some students thrive in an online setting, while some feel more comfortable in a traditional classroom setting. Blended learning courses, which combine online and classroom learning are also available.

To find out if online courses are right for you, simply type bb.mwcc.edu in your browser, then type in "demo" for the user name and password to access a demonstration, participate in a discussion board, and see sample syllabi, assignments and quizzes.

Majorly Important

When choosing a career path, men and women are not as far apart as you might guess. There is a lot of overlap in the choice of college majors between the sexes–but a few notable differences too. Men still choose engineering and computer careers in much larger numbers–both fields in which six-figure salaries are commonplace. And women still dominate in English, humanities and liberal arts–fields that pay far more modest salaries. Although money isn't everything, many college freshmen state that becoming financially well off is among their life goals, and the choice of a major can make a big difference in income.

Top College Majors

WOMEN	MEN
Business	Business
[illegible]	Social Sciences and History
Social Sciences and History	Engineering and Engineering Technologies
[illegible]	Visual and Performing Arts
Psychology	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services
[illegible]	Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Communication and Communication Technologies	Communication and Communication Technologies
[illegible]	Education
English Language and Literature/Letters	Psychology
[illegible]	Security and Protective Services

Source: "Most Popular College Majors for Women" August 10, 2010, Forbes.com

Benefit Others & Yourself Through Service Learning

Build your résumé through civic engagement

By Fagan Forhan

Service Learning at Mount Wachusett Community College is a win-win for both the students and the local communities. For the student, it gives incredible opportunities to gain hands-on experience, bringing their course work to life. For the community, it delivers needed service and support to North Central Massachusetts. Approximately 400 students are providing an average of 15,000 hours each year to the area. The students at Mount Wachusett Community College are investing their time, their energy and themselves into our region. While the community greatly benefits from the service the students provide, the greatest beneficiary may actually be the students themselves. Why? Plain and simple, job readiness.

Students in an Introduction to Sociology course participated in an optional service learning component with Habitat for Humanity, North Central Massachusetts in March 2011. Pictured from left, Stephanie Coulombe, Renee Chandler and Kersten Coull, with Associate Professor of Psychology & Sociology Julie Capozzi.

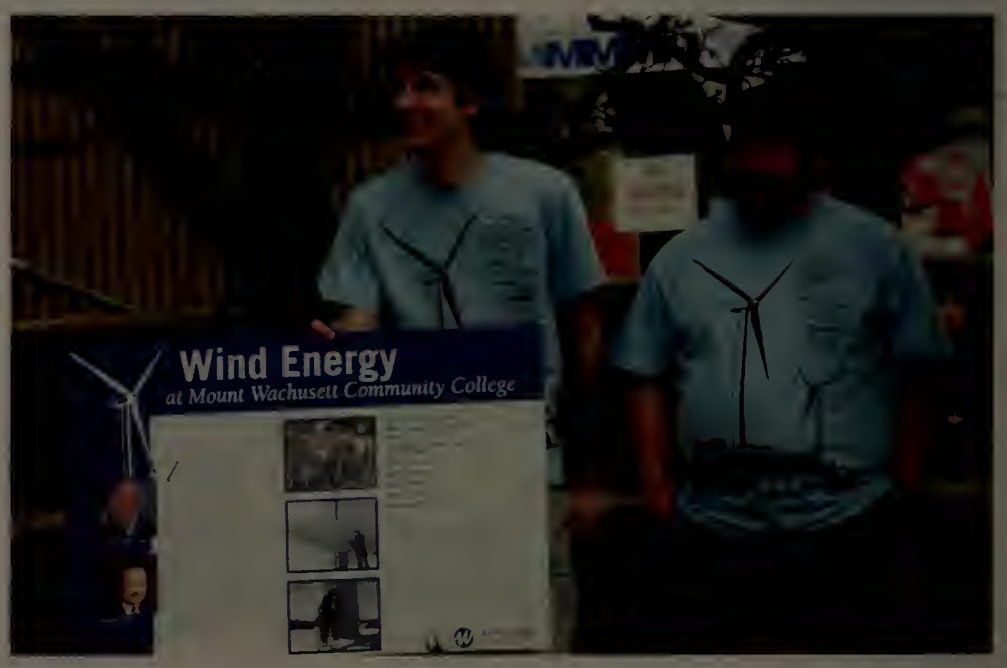
The benefits of service learning to a student are numerous, and are consistent with the mission principles of MWCC, including high quality education, innovative curriculum and personalized support. Through working with diverse populations, the functional learning reinforces the material being taught in the classroom in a way that often "clicks" for students. It allows them to make meaningful contributions to our community, bolstering their self-confidence, developing their critical thinking skills and broadening their perspective. In turn, these practical skills acquired "on the job" are attractive to future employers.

It also allows a student to "try-on" a career, either confirming or eliminating academic choices before a degree is awarded. In this way, service learning also provides guidance and experience for future career decisions, and can be used as work experience on a student's résumé or transfer application.

Additionally with their area roots, service learning experiences can provide opportunities for students to network locally with professionals in a selected field, reinforce soft skills needed in any field, and potentially lead to career opportunities right here in North Central Massachusetts after graduation.

Nonprofits, as beneficiaries of service learning, are putting students "to work" in numerous ways including:

- Fundraising and development
- Marketing and communications
- Program and service delivery
- Administrative support
- Financial management and accounting
- Technology and information systems



Jon Skinner and Noah Ciccoine were among a group of Computer Graphic Design students who designed the image for an MWCC wind turbine t-shirt, unveiled at the turbine dedication ceremony in 2011. The CGD club raised $1,900 for student scholarships through the t-shirt sales.

Through experiences like these, where our students are put into professional capacities, job skills are refined and sharpened. Students learn useful skills like time management, collaboration, problem solving and effective communication. Our students rise to the occasion regularly, demonstrating again and again that they are ready to meet the challenges and show that they can contribute to our community in a meaningful way. Many employers will say that technical skills can be taught, but it is these types of soft skills that set students apart from other candidates when hiring.

A game of human checkers at the Boys and Girls Club of North Central Massachusetts was one of many activities incorporated in a new Community Service Learning course.

MWCC's annual Summer Leadership Camp provides a service component.

The trick then, becomes understanding how to take the service learning experience and translate it into the skills and characteristics that employers seek.

When incorporating service learning experiences into a resume, students should focus on a few key things:

1. The community benefit – how did the service actually impact the organization or community? Tie concrete metrics to the project completed, such as, number of meals served, gallons of trash recycled, disaster preparedness kits provided, number of seniors provided with blood pressure analysis, etc.
2. Highlight the skills refined while doing the service activities. For example, a student who helped an organization prepare for a conference by tracking attendees and logistical details might say "Assisted in the successful coordination of a 400-person regional conference, providing logistical support to a team of four employees using MicroSoft Excel and Access." This simple statement tells the hiring manager this candidate has hard skills with MicroSoft programs, as well as soft skills such as teamwork, attention to details and administrative support.
3. Map initial learning objectives to the actual accomplishments made. For example, perhaps the student wanted to expand their communication skills working with a diverse population. If achieved, showcase how and incorporate this attribute when crafting a resume.

Service learning can put students on the right track toward employment. Here's what students are saying upon completion of their civic engagement project:

- 86% of service learning students said the information or skills gained are relevant to other areas of their lives.
- 60% indicated that they learned information or skills that helped them better understand the objectives of their coursework.
- 75% said that they feel more confident to enter the workforce as a result of their service learning experience.
- 10% were offered a job as a direct result of their service learning experience, while another 65% indicated that they "possibly" would be offered employment as a direct result of their experience.

"One of my favorite success stories involves a nursing student who chose to do her service learning at a local agency that deals with community health, emergency preparedness and disaster relief," explains Associate Professor of Nursing Amy Kendrick. "This student put in hours well above and beyond her course requirements, and worked to prepare a training manual for new volunteers. After graduation, she continued to work with this agency and even traveled to a national conference on disaster preparedness with the agency. She has been out of school for a few years now, working as an RN, and still continues to volunteer her time with the agency. I think it speaks volumes that this "course requirement" essentially led this student to find something she was passionate about and that she was able to continue to work on and develop, even after graduation. This is my hope for all students doing service learning, that they find something they are passionate about, that will not only be a useful teaching tool for them, but something they can incorporate into their lives."

Service learning is an integral part of the Capstone Course for the Graphic Design curriculum, says Professor Paul Swecenski. Students have a clear, time-critical goal of completing a web design or print design project for a non-profit client or organization.

"Participants in a service learning project increase their self-confidence, overcome the fear of speaking to strangers, hone their communications skills, and increase their ability to conceptualize a project and to build a relationship step-by-step," he says. "By the completion of their service learning project, they begin to feel and believe they are really designers. They are no longer just studying the subject - they are active in the profession. They build a professional portfolio and gain real world experience to a much more substantial resume."

Students interested in doing service learning should speak to their instructor about the possibility of incorporating a service learning project into their course. For service opportunities this semester, visit the Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement's website at http://www.mwcc.edu/community/.

Just a few places where MWCC students are serving the community:

- House of Hope and Education, Gardner
- My Father's House, Fitchburg
- Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts
- Boys & Girls Club of North Central Massachusetts
- Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center, Gardner
- Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps
- Montachusett Opportunity Council
- LUK, Inc., Fitchburg
- Cleghorn Neighborhood Center, Fitchburg
- Polish American Center, Leo
- Community Health Center, Fitchburg
- WHEAT, C
- Leaves & Wings Daycare
- Municipal Police Departments
- Area Public Schools
- Local Senior Centers

Feature

Flexible Program Options to Suit Every Interest

Mount Wachusett Community College offers a wide variety of courses in many study areas. You can choose from day, evening and online courses and attend campuses conveniently located in Gardner, Leominster and Devens, as well as a program specific site in Fitchburg. Your options include:

Devens

Gardner

Leominster

Subject/Campus	Devens	Gardner	Leominster	Fitchburg	Online
Accounting		X	X		X
Anthropology		X			X
Art		X			
American Sign Language		X			
Automotive		X			
Broadcasting		X			X
Biology	X	X	X		X
Biotechnology/Biomanufacturing	X				
Business		X	X		X
Cooperative Education		X			
Computer Graphic Design		X			X
Complementary Health Care	X	X	X		
Chemistry	X	X			
Computer Information Systems	X	X	X		X
Criminal Justice		X	X		
Clinical Lab Science		X			
Dental Hygiene				X	
Earth Science		X			
Early Childhood Education		X			
Economics		X	X		X
Education		X			
Energy Management	X				
English as a Second Language			X		
English/Literature	X	X	X		X
Fitness Leadership/Exercise Science		X			
Finance					X
First Year Experience		X	X		X

Subject/Campus	Devens	Gardner	Leominster	Fitchburg	Online
Geography					X
Health Sciences		X			
History		X	X		X
Human Services		X	X		X
Humanities	X	X	X		X
Interdisciplinary Studies		X			
Medical Assisting	X	X			X
Math	X	X	X		X
Management	X	X	X		X
Marketing		X	X		X
Massage Therapy		X			
Music		X			X
Natural Resources		X			
Nursing	X	X			X
Physical Education	X	X	X		X
Philosophy		X			
Photography		X			X
Physics		X			
Phlebotomy		X			
Paralegal		X	X		X
Political Science		X	X		X
Psychology	X	X	X		X
Physical Therapy	X	X			
Reading		X	X		X
Sociology	X	X	X		X
Spanish	X	X	X		X
Theater	X	X	X		X

What's New for You?

Programs for those interested in health, broadcasting, public safety and automotive technology careers

By Janice O'Connor

New Program Options

New academic opportunities have been added to the 40-plus degree and certificate programs offered at Mount Wachusett Community College. These include new concentrations in the Broadcasting and Electronic Media program, a new Dental Assisting certificate program offered at night, revisions to the Fire Science Technology program that now align it with the National Fire Academy, and an Automotive Technology partnership with General Motors.

New Broadcasting Concentrations

The Broadcasting and Electronic Media program at MWCC prepares students for careers in broadcasting, video/film, audio engineering, professional photography and related industries. New concentrations in audio engineering, photography and video/film were recently created to provide students with additional academic and career paths.

"Ever since I was 10 years old, I have pretty much been obsessed with video and photography and sound," says Broadcasting and Electronic Media major Tiffianie LeBlanc of Gardner. "So being able to pursue concentrations in all three areas is perfect for me."

Television production courses offer training for positions in video and film studios, field production, editing, directing and producing in fully equipped studios. And no other public college or university in Massachusetts offers as much training for a career in audio production in the television, video or film industries. There's also advanced course options in music recording and mixing. The new photography concentration offers courses in digital, portrait, commercial and studio photography, as well as photo compositing.

Dental Assisting

In January, MWCC launched a new 15-month certificate program in Dental Assisting. The new part-time, evening credit program at the Fitchburg campus prepares students for dental assisting board certification and for careers assisting dentists and other technicians, including dental hygienists, dental therapists and dental technicians. Dental assistants are responsible for patient care as well as office and laboratory duties, including preparing patients for treatment, sterilizing and organizing instruments, passing instruments during a procedure, and obtaining and checking dental records. Students interested in continuing their studies to earn an associate degree in dental hygiene can apply some credits from the certificate program.

Broadcasting & Electronic Media major Tiffianie LeBlanc, with Media Services Director Art Collins, is earning credentials in all three program concentrations.

Fire Science Technology

Fire fighters and those interested in this public safety career are turning to MWCC's newly revised Fire Science Technology program, which last fall became aligned with the national Fire Academy's Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) initiative. MWCC's associate degree program was one of the first in the country to be accepted into the NFA's new FESHE Institutional Recognition and Certificate Program, which recognizes two-year institutions that follow the NFA's model curriculum.

North Central Massachusetts fire chiefs and other officials who serve on MWCC's Fire Science Advisory Board actively pursued the designation and MWCC's new affiliation with FESHE, which now aligns the college's associate degree program with the national, standardized curriculum advocated by the NFA, a division of the U.S. Fire Administration.

Geared toward those already working in the field, as well those interested in pursuing a fire science career, the program can be completed entirely online or in combination with on-campus courses. The program includes FESHE's six-course model core curriculum. An additional seven courses are incorporated into the program as required or elective courses.

As part of the new program, students completing FESHE courses will receive certificates of accomplishment from the NFA. Students pursuing the associate degree also have the option of transferring credits toward a bachelor's degree.

Automotive Technology

General Motors, one of the world's largest automotive manufacturers, and MWCC established a new automotive technology degree program in fall 2011 that prepares students to become GM certified technicians.

In the two-year GM Automotive Service Educational Program (GM ASEP), students earn an associate degree through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on experience through paid co-op training at ACDelco certified repair centers or GM dealerships. Students receive advanced automotive technical training in combination with a strong academic foundation in math, electronics and analytical skills.

The GM ASEP program represents a long-term commitment that General Motors has made to help dealers recruit and train motivated and qualified entry-level technicians to work on the corporation's line of Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC vehicles.

As a partner college, MWCC received vehicles, components, tools, and training materials, as well as expertise from GM trained instructors and other support services. Local dealerships and ACDelco Total Service Support (TSS) centers that sponsor the student interns receive the opportunity to train their own technicians, reduce recruitment costs over the long term, retain technicians and strengthen shop involvement in the community.

In addition to the GM ASEP program, MWCC continues to offer its traditional automotive technology associate degree and certificate programs.

Summer Fun Includes Surf, Sand and Yes, Studies!

By Hannah Adams

Savvy students get a head start on their degree by taking some catch up classes at Mount Wachusett Community College between summer jobs and hitting the beach. Finishing up a college degree can be stressful enough. Applying to grad schools or jobs, packing up, moving – it's a whole lifestyle change. Trying to cram in all the classes and credits you need to graduate should not be on the top of that list. A number of colleges and universities in Massachusetts recognize MWCC as a reliable resource for those students struggling to get their diploma on time.

"It is a perfect opportunity for students to catch up if they're behind a course or two in terms of their educational planning," says MWCC Associate Dean of Enrollment Services Glenn Roberts. "It is also a wonderful opportunity if students want to finish their degrees sooner than is expected."

Athol's Allie Boucher, a senior finishing her double major in Math and Psychology at Westfield State University, turned to MWCC to lighten her workload during her final year. "It was a really smooth transition. I signed up for the class, took the class, and then sent my transcript to Westfield," Boucher says. "I had to check if the credits would transfer beforehand, but they did and it was easy."

MWCC staff are always available to assist students with transfer questions and course selection. Roberts emphasizes that it is important for students to check with their home college or university before registering for a summer class. "Once a course is approved, special attention should be placed upon grade requirements. Once students successfully complete their summer courses, they can simply request that an official, free MWCC transcript be sent to their home college."

Jeremy Bednard graduated from Fitchburg State University with a Biology degree in May 2011 thanks to the credit boost he received by taking the summer Cell Biology course at MWCC's Devens campus. "That allowed me to graduate in spring 2011 instead of fall 2011. If I hadn't taken this course, I would have had to go to Fitchburg for another semester just to take one class," Bednard explains.

Boucher's summer Child Development class at MWCC not only helped her academically, but financially as well. Often, students choose to take advantage of how inexpensive MWCC is compared to taking the same class at their home university.

More than 2,000 students were enrolled in courses last summer at MWCC. Approximately 150 students from various colleges and universities in New England used this affordable course transfer option.

Summer courses and spring and winter intersession courses are more general in nature, which nearly all students need to take, and are easily transferable from school to school to meet core requirements. Some of the most popular summer courses include lab sciences, math courses, a wide variety of business courses, computer courses, English or speech, and a variety of humanities and social science electives, Roberts says. "We offer a wide variety of good, solid, transferrable summer courses for students wishing to transfer."

Boucher agrees and stands by the education she received at MWCC, even for the short duration. "I loved it! The class was awesome, it was a lot of information to take in five weeks, but it was fantastic. The professor was great and it was very convenient for me."

For more summer course listings, visit http://mwcc.edu/cf.

Top 10 Summer 2011 Courses

- Anatomy and Physiology II
- Computer Technologi
- English Composition I
- English Composition II
- Fitness and Wellness
- Foundations of Algebra II
- Intro to Psychology
- Speech
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- Topics in Math

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Elizabeth Burke entered MWCC at age 16 as a dually-enrolled high school and college student. After earning her degree in Broadcasting & Electronic Media from MWCC, she transferred to Emerson College in Boston as a junior.

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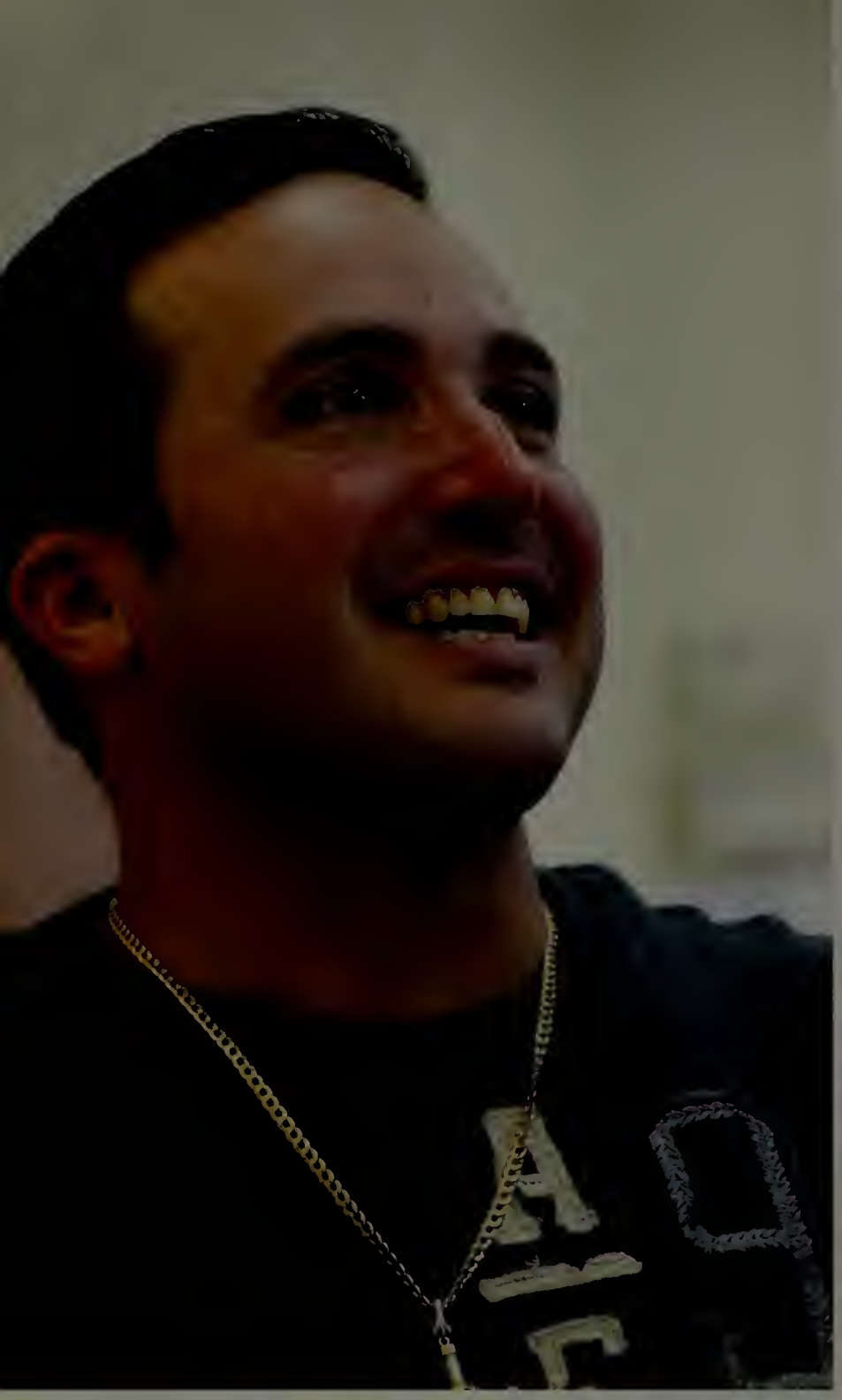

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Business Administration—Career
Business Administration—Transfer
Clinical Laboratory Science
Communications Track*
Complementary Health Care
Computer Graphic Design—Print
Computer Graphic Design—Web Design
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice—Corrections Concentration*
Criminal Justice— Law Enforcement Concentration*
Dental Hygiene
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Early Childhood Education—Transfer
Elementary Education Track*
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Fire Science Technology
Fitness Leadership & Exercise Science Track*
General Studies
History & Political Science Track*
Human Services
Liberal Arts & Sciences
Manufacturing Technology—Plastics
Medical Assisting
Natural Resources
Nursing
Paralegal Studies
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Pre-Engineering Track*
Theatre Arts Track*
Video/Film Concentration*
Yoga Teacher Training Concentration*

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Business Administration
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Phlebotomy Certificate of Completion
Radiologic Technologist Articulation Agreement

* Denotes a concentration of an associate degree

MWCC Campus Locations & Hours

Gardner Campus
444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
978-632-6600
Email: admissions@mwcc.mass.edu

Leominster Campus
100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA 01453
Office hours:
Mon - Thu, 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
978-630-9810
Email: leominster@mwcc.mass.edu

Devens Campus
One Jackson Place
27 Jackson Road, Devens, MA 01434
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978-630-9569
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